WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

U,S. Grant for Development of Agriculture

*363. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently given grants to the extent of Rs. 63 lakhs to Indian Scientists who work with American counterparts from U.S.D.A. and U.S. Agricultural Universities and the Centre for International Maize and Wheat Improvement;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the Ministry are not taking the assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to develop Agriculture and Horticulture in Punjab to help the farmers of Punjab rather than depending upon a Soft drink company (Pepsi Cola) to develop our agriculture; and

(c) how many Research establishments are there in Punjab to develop agriculture and horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the grant agreements are strictly bilateral between the Indian Institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and do not include any funds for the Centre for International Maize and Wheat Improvement.

(b) The imputation that the Ministry is "depending upon a Soft Drink Company (Pepsi Cola) to develop our agriculture" is not correct and is at variance with the factual position. The Ministry is taking assistance from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop Agriculture and Horticulture in Punjab, as is evident from the fact that seven out of a total of 75 Research Projects in India funded by the USDA are in operation in Punjab.

(c) There are 21 Regional Research Stations/Centres/Institutes in Operation in the Punjab State to develop agriculture and horticulture.

हीरा कुन्ड बांध के संबंध में उड़ीसा सुदूर संवेदी अनुप्रयोग केन्द्र (उड़ीसा रिमोट सेंसिंग एप्लीकेशन सेन्टर) की रिपोर्ट

*365. श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी :
श्री रशीद मसूद :

क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को उड़ीसा सुदूर संवेदी अनुप्रयोग केन्द्र द्वारा हीराकुंड बांध के बारे में किये गये अध्ययन से संबंधित हाल ही की रिपोर्ट की जानकारी है ,

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस रिपोर्ट का अध्ययन किया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रभावी कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री बी. शंकरानन्द) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) गाद भरने की दर को कम करने के उद्देश्य से जलग्रहण क्षेत्र में मृदा संरक्षण संबंधी उपाय आरम्भ किए गये हैं ।

Introduction of Crop Insurance Scheme

*366. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the States|Union Territories which have not yet introduced the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) the estimated damage that the farmers have suffered in each of these States|Union Territories during the